

Application No. 10/690,030
Amendment dated March 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of August 11, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media with improved static decay comprising the steps of:

providing a precursor web comprising predominant staple length fibers;

providing an electro-conductive scrim;

providing a foraminous surface; and

juxtapositioning said precursor web and electro-conductive scrim onto said foraminous surface, and hydroentangling said precursor web and electro-conductive scrim to form said filter media, said filter media having a basis weight of no more than about 6 oz/yd², and exhibiting a Mullen burst strength of at least about 198 psi, and machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 3%.

Claim 2 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 1, including:

providing a three-dimensional image transfer device, and advancing said entangled precursor web and electro-conductive scrim onto said three-dimensional image transfer device so as to impart a three-dimensional image.

Claim 3 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 2, including:

providing a three-dimensional image transfer device, and advancing said entangled precursor web and electro-conductive scrim onto said three-dimensional image transfer device so as to impart a three-dimensional image.

Claim 4 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media with improved static decay comprising the steps of:

providing a precursor web comprising predominant staple length fibers;
providing a scrim comprised of an electro-conductive polymeric melt;
providing a foraminous surface;
providing a three-dimensional image transfer device;
extruding said electro-conductive polymeric melt directly onto said precursor web, and hydroentangling said precursor web and electro-conductive scrim; and
advancing said entangled precursor web and electro-conductive scrim onto said three-dimensional image transfer device so as to impart a three-dimensional image, and said filter media having a basis weight of no more than about 6 oz/yd², and exhibiting a Mullen burst strength of at least about 198 psi, and machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 3%.

Claim 5 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 1, including heat-setting said filter media after said hydroentangling step.

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Claim 6 (withdrawn). A method of making a filter media in accordance with claim 2, wherein said precursor web comprises fusible fibers whereby said filter media is thermally bonded during said heat-setting step.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (currently amended). A laminate filter media structure comprising hydroentangled, predominant staple length fibers and an electro-conductive scrim in the form of a spunbond material to provide a reduced static decay time, said filter media structure having a basis weight of no more than about 6 oz/yd², a Mullen burst strength of at least about 198 psi, and machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 3% wherein said filter media exhibits a machine-direction tensile strength of at least about 52 lb/in and a cross-direction tensile strength of at least about 55 lb/in.

Claim 9 (currently amended). A filter media structure in accordance with claim 4 8, wherein said media exhibits machine-direction and cross-direction shrinkage of less than about 2%.

Claim 10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended). A filter media structure in accordance with claim 4 8, wherein said filter media is a gas filter.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A filter media structure in accordance with claim 4 8, wherein said filter media is an air filter.

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Claim 13 (currently amended). A filter media structure in accordance with claim
4 8, wherein said filter media is a liquid filter.